

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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TAGS: ECE, OCON, EAGR

SUBJECT: ECE - AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE, WORKING
PARTY ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF PERISHABLE
PRODUCE, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, JULY 5-8, 1977

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SUBJECT MEETING SHOULD BE GUIDED BY
FOLLOWING: WHILE MANY OF THE ITEMS ARE OF INTEREST TO THE
UNITED STATES, WE ARE EITHER IN AGREEMENT, OR HAVE NO
PROBLEM WITH OTHER THAN ITEMS 6 AND 7.

2. REGARDING ITEM 6 OUR CONCERN IS WITH THE CONTENT OF
PARAGRAPH 4, 5, 6 AND 7 OF DOCUMENT AGR/WP1/R.16
DATED APRIL 20, 1977. THE REFERENCED PARAGRAPHS ATTEMPT TO
ESTABLISH THE NEED TO DEVELOP UN-ECE STANDARDS FOR POULTRY
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MEAT AND POULTRY CUTS. SUCH STANDARDS MAY ENCOMPASS
HYGENIC REQUIREMENTS AND ANALYTICAL TESTING.

3. PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE DOCUMENT STATES THAT "IF THE WORKING
PARTY FEELS UNABLE TO DECIDE ON THESE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS
IN JULY, PERHAPS IT WOULD WISH TO LEAVE THE RESOLVING OF
SUCH QUESTIONS TO A CONSULTATION OF EXPERTS SPECIALIZED

IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE, OR PERHAPS BY RAPPORTEURS

ESPECIALLY APPOINTED BY THE WORKING PARTY TO DRAW UP A WORKING DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION BY A FUTURE GROUP OF EXPERTS".

4. IT MAY BE POINTED OUT THAT AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/WHO CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION IN 1962 (REPORT OF SECOND SESSION PARA. 76) IT WAS THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION THAT IF STANDARDS FOR POULTRY MEAT WERE TO BE ELABORATED, THEY SHOULD BE DONE BY A CODEX COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER RULE IX 1(B)1. (REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION PARA. 62). EVEN THOUGH A COMMITTEE WAS NOT ESTABLISHED AT THAT TIME, A CODEX COMMITTEE ON POULTRY MEAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1965 (REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION, PARA. 62). THE COMMITTEE WAS ABOLISHED AT THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION IN 1969 FOR LACK OF INTEREST IN ELABORATING STANDARDS.

5. THE CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD HYGIENE HAS DEVELOPED A CODE OF HYGENIC PRACTICES FOR POULTRY MEAT. IT SHOULD ,E NOTED ALSO THAT THERE IS A CODEX COMMITTEE ON METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING AND THAT THIS -OM;IT;EE COVERS METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING OF PRODUCTS ACROSS THE BOARD.

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6. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD POINT OUT TO THE WORKING PARTY THAT IT IS THE UNITED STATES VIEW THAT IF THERE IS NOW A NEED TO ELABORATE STANDARDS FOR POULTRY MEAT, THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION IS THE PROPER INTERNATIONAL BODY TO DO THIS. ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ECE ARE MEMBERS OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION, OR ARE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME MEMBERS.

7. WITH REGARD TO ITEM 7, REPORT OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON STANDARDIZATION OF EGG OR PRODUCTS ON ITS FIRST SESSION (AGRI/WP.1GE.8/11), THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD INDICATE THAT THE UNITED STATES FEELS THAT FOR THIS PRODUCT ALSO, THE WORK SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION. AS A MINIMUM, THERE SHOULD BE THE CLOSEST COLLABORATION WITH THE CODEX COMMISSION ON ANY STANDARDS ON EGG OR EGG PRODUCTS ELABORATED BY THE UN-ECE. VANCE

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